Pay Scales of Stenographers

3009. SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that while all other categories of Railwaymen have been repeatedly given upgradation and restructuring benefits, Railway stenographers were denied of these benefits treating them as "Common Category" under Central Government;

(b) whether the recommendations of IV Pay Commission and DOP&T award of 1st March, 1988 granting gazetted status to P.As in scale Rs. 2000-3200 have not been implemented in Railways so far; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The stenographers have been treated as a common category under the Central Government. The pay scales allotted to this category are based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission and the decisions taken by the nodal Ministries viz. Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions. The scale of stenographic assistance to various levels of officers are also in accordance with the norms prescribed by the nodal Ministry. The improvements in pay scales provided for this category in the other Central Government departments have been adopted in the case of the stenographers on Railways. Posts of stenographers are also automatically upgraded when the posts of officers to whom they are attached are upgraded. Therefore, restructuring of this category has not been considered.

On the Civil side, posts in revised pay scales the maximum of which is not less than Rs. 2900/- but less than Rs. 4000/-, have been classified as Group 'B' by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions based on the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission. This includes the stenographers in scale Rs. 2000-3200 working in non-secretariat Organisations, other than the Ministry of Railways.

The Fourth Central Pay Commission, while making their recommendations on the aspect of classification of posts had observed that some deviation from the general norms did exist in some Ministries/Departments. The Commission indicated that such deviation could be continued after review.

On the zonal Railways, a very large number of senior subordinates are available in the scales of Rs. 1640-2900, Rs. 2000-3200 as well as in the still higher scale of Rs. 2375-3500 who were being classified as Group 'C' in the pre-revised scales of pay. Granting them Group 'B' gazetted status would have wide ranging repercussions in a large number of matters like working arrangements, reporting levels, supervision, entitlements, etc. and, therefore, a decision had been taken by this Ministry to continue with the existing classification, i.e. Group 'C'. This decision is in consonance with the recommendations of the Fourth Central Pay Commission, who had indicated that existing deviations could continue if the Ministries/Departments found it necessary. The case of stenographers, therefore, cannot be considered, in isolation ignoring the other categories in the same or still higher grade.

Derailment of Jaipur Bound Sealdah Express

3010. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jaipur-bound Sealdah Express derailed between Poopwas and Bayana Railway station in early hours of 30th July, 1994 and a number of passengers were injured; if so, the details thereof;

(b) how many derailment incidents have occurred during the last six months and at what places;

(c) what are the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have conducted enquiries of these incidents; and

(e) if so, what is the result of the enquiries together with action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) On 30.7.94, on Agra Fort-Bayana section of Western Railway, 13 coaches of 3111 Up Sealdah-Jaipur Express derailed between Poopwas and Bansi Paharpur stations. However, there was no death or injury to any passenger.

(b) 201 derailments occurred during the six month period from February '94 to July '94.

(c) Zone-wise details are given below:—

Railway	Total number of derailments February-July'94
Central	17
Eastern	19
Northern	22
North Eastern	5
Northeast Frontier	32
Southern	14
South Central	20
South Eastern	46
Western	26
TOTAL:	201

(d) and (e) Each and every accident is inquired into by Commissioners of Railway Safety or by an appropriate multi-disciplinary committee of officers, depending upon the gravity of the accident. Suitable follow-up action in each case is taken against the staff held responsible and disciplinary proceedings launched, culminating into various penalties including dismissal, removal, reversion, reduction in grade or pay and stoppage of increments etc. Further safety measures are adopted on the conclusion of findings and recommendations made in the inquiry reports.

Misuse of Complementary Railway Passes

3011. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the complimentary railway passes issued to the deserving persons have been misused by the unscrupulous people;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to take precautionary measures so that it may not occur again; and

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir. Some such cases have come to notice.

(b) 9 cases of misuse of such passes have been detected including 6 on Northern Railway and one each on Central, North Eastern and Western Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Preventive/surprise checks by Commercial and Vigilance Departments would continue in respect of complimentary passes.

Amount spent on advertisement

3012. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state the details of the total amount spent by your Ministry on advertisements given to the Newspapers direct or through DAVP etc. during the period 1992-93 and 1993-94 language-wise and Railway Zone-wise?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF):